Justinian

(d. 407)

BRIEFING

Justinian was a Western Roman military officer. He held the position of magister militum in 407, under the rule of Honorius but not under his command, rather under that of the usurper Constantine of Britain.

BIOGRAPHY

He was part of the Roman army stationed in Britain. It appears that, as praepositus, he participated in the construction of a defensive fort on the eastern coast, specifically in the present-day town of Ravenscar. The fortification was part of the defensive installations to protect the island from Saxon attacks.

On December 31, 406, a conglomeration of barbarian peoples invaded Gaul. Shortly thereafter, Constantine of Britain was proclaimed emperor by the troops stationed on the island, and at their head he crossed the English Channel and landed on the continent. Before departing, he appointed Nebiogastes and Justinian as his trusted generals.

The troops stationed in Gaul joined Constantine, and the army advanced along the Rhine into the province of Germania Prima, where they inflicted a resounding defeat on the invaders still present. By then, Honorius 's government considered Constantine a greater threat to its interests than the invaders themselves and sent an army against him under the command of Sarus. Constantine, for his part, dispatched Justinian with a contingent of his troops to confront them, but the battle proved unfavorable, and Justinian fell in combat.